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REPORTS ADVANCES IN RADIO BROADCASTING

PEOPLE'S BROADCASTING STATIONS ESTABLISHED -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 25 Apr 50

The following is the gist of an article by Mei I (梅益) on the progress of
radio broadcasting in China during the past 2 years:

The people's broadcasting operations have developed with great rapidity, and
have become a highly effective instrument for the dissemination of news and edu-
cational propaganda. In September 1945 the first people's broadcasting station,
then called the Hsin-hua Broadcasting Station, was established in Yenan. Now,
following the great victory of the struggle for liberation, there are in the coun-
try 49 ⁴⁸ stations, using 89 transmitters for broadcasting long-,
medium-, and short-wave messages for both domestic and foreign reception. The
power of the stations now in use is 200 times that of 1947, and the number of
persons engaged in these operations has increased from 150 to 4,000. The geo-
graphical distribution of the stations is as follows:

Central Station, 1; at Peiping.

North China, 8; at Peiping, Tientsin, Pao-ting, T'ai-yuan, Kalgan, Hsin-hsiang,
Kuei-sui, T'ang-shan.Northeast China, 13; at Mukden, Harbin, Dairen, Ch'ang-chun, Kirin, Th'i-ch'i-
ha-erh, An-tung, Chin-chou, Ch'eng-te, An-shan, Fu-shun, Yen-chi, Ying-k'ou.East China, 13; Hua-tung, Shanghai, Nanking, Tsinan, Hangchow, Foochow, Tsing-
tao, Wu-hsi, Nan-t'ung, Soochow, Amoy, Hsu-chou, Ch'ang-chou.Central and South China, 5; Wu-han, Canton, Ch'angsha, Nan-ch'ang, Liu-chou
(on trial).

Southwest China, 4; Chungking, Kunming, Kuei-yang, Ch'eng-tu.

Northwest China, 4; Sian, Lan-chou, Ti-hua, Hsi-ning.

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- 1 -

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In process of establishment are four stations, in Eastern Mongolia, Yang-chou, Ho-fei, and Nan-ming. Stations at Yen-an, Han-tan, Fou-p'ing, Shih-chia-chuang, Cheng-chou, Mu-tan-chiang, Ssu-p'ing, and T'ung-hua have been transferred and merged with other stations or discontinued. Stations at Wen-chou and Pao-t'ou may be restored to operation as relaying stations. The 49 stations in operation broadcast under the control of the News Administration.

Of the above-mentioned 49 stations and 89 transmitters, 32 stations and 58 transmitters were established in 1949.

A comparison of the power of the respective sending stations with the aggregate power of all the stations in the country is as follows:

The power of the Central Station (Peiping) accounts for 63 percent of the power of all the stations (with new installations to be completed by the end of May 1950, it will have 70 percent of the whole); Northeast stations, 12 percent; East China stations, 8; Southwest China stations, 7; Northwest China stations, 4; Central and South China stations, 3.5; and North China stations, 2.5 percent.

The reason for the comparatively large power of the stations in the Northeast, East, and Southwest is that they are used by the Central Station as relay stations for broadcasting within the country and to foreign countries. The present transmitting power of the Central Station is still less than that of the KMT government's central station in September 1947. The total transmitting power of the People's government broadcasting stations is barely one half the aggregate power of all the stations under the KMT in September 1947.

The distribution of broadcasting power is far from perfect, and needs modification. For instance, although Hankow is such an important government center, its broadcasting equipment is inferior to that of Canton, and Canton's power is less than that of Nan-ch'ang. Nan-chang's power is, in fact, five times as great as that of Hankow. Again, the power of the installations in Ch'eng-tu and Kueiyang is greater than that of Chungking. The Northwest and Southwest regions have only four stations each, while three cities on the Shanghai-Nanking railroad, Changchou, Wu-hsi, and Soochow, have three stations. Shanghai alone has 22 privately operated stations, with power individually greater than many of our stations in the middle-sized cities.

At present there are 33 private broadcasting stations, situated as follows: Shanghai 22, Canton 3, Chungking 3, Ning-po 2, Peiping 1, Tientsin 1, Tsingtao 1. Their combined power is at least 13,000 watts.

The distribution of receiving sets is a matter which also deserves attention; According to the best data available, it is estimated that there are in the country between one and 1.1 million receiving sets. Of these, about half are Japanese-made medium-wave sets having three or four tubes. It is believed that the Northeast and East China regions each have from 350,000 to 400,000 sets; North China, 200,000 sets, mostly in Peiping and Tientsin; other regions, about 100,000. In addition, it is estimated there are in the entire country as many as 200,000 sets which, if repaired or reconditioned, could be made usable.

Only a very small proportion of the million or more sets are owned or enjoyed by people of the working class. The chief purchasers of receiving sets and replacement parts are business concerns, schools, military units, social organizations and individuals with comparatively large incomes. Receiving sets in the hands of military personnel are largely those confiscated from the public since liberation, and since that time it is estimated that only from 10,000 to 15,000 new sets have been purchased. The trend is toward large sets to be used by groups or large bodies; and for such sets there is an unprecedentedly large market.

- 2 -

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50X1-HUM

The five factories for the manufacture of radio receiving sets under the management of the Radio Broadcasting Bureau are able to produce 20,000 sets per year, providing raw materials are available and they are operated at full capacity.

The 48 people's stations other than the Central Station are classified as regional, provincial, and municipal stations. There is one regional station in each of the large administrative regions; these regional stations have the authority and responsibility for directing the operations of the provincial and municipal stations under them, with the exception of those in North China which are directly under the Broadcasting Bureau.

The Central Station is responsible for broadcasting news, cultural entertainment, and social educational material. The regional and provincial stations report or announce regional and provincial news and government notices and orders. Municipal stations issue local news reports and social educational material.

More than half of the persons engaged in the broadcasting industry are inexperienced, and do not compare favorably with persons in the newspaper industry.

Since April 1950, broadcasting for domestic reception and broadcasting for foreign or international reception have been separated. For the former purposes, seven wave lengths are in use (there will soon be eight) during 15½ hours. News items occupy about half of the time, and the other half is almost equally divided between social education and cultural entertainment. Railroads and factories operate on broadcasted time signals.

The Central International Broadcasting Station's call number is that of the Peiping Broadcasting Station. Since 10 April 1950, it has broadcasted in six languages, English, Japanese, Annamese, Indonesian, Burmese, and Siamese, and for the benefit of overseas Chinese listeners, in the dialects of Amoy, Ch'ao-chou, Canton, and the Hakka. After the end of May there will also be broadcasting in the Korean, Mongolian, and Tibetan languages. At present foreign broadcasting occupies some 7 hours a day; this will soon be increased to 15 hours. For domestic reception, the Central Station relies on regional or other stations to relay signals. For foreign broadcasting, however, where short wave lengths are used, its power is such that its signals are distinctly heard in Japan, the South Sea Islands, New Zealand, and elsewhere. By the use of beamed transmission, Moscow may receive our signals. Thus, San Francisco, Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden sometimes enjoy good reception.

There is one station that transmits 4 times a day, 26 transmit 3 times a day, 12 transmit 2 times a day, and 9 once a day. According to data for February 1950, the total number of hours of broadcasting by all the stations was over 480 a day. The station broadcasting most is Shanghai, with 36½ hours a day.

Not enough attention is given by local stations to supplying educational and cultural material adapted to the interests and needs of particular types of people, such as miners at T'ang-shan, Hopeh, and steel workers at An-sha, Liaotung. Not only must more suitable material be presented, but steps should be taken to organize groups of people to listen to the broadcasts. Last year Tientsin had 470 such groups. A larger number of persons of various types and talents, such as workers, farmers, soldiers, scientists, physicians, should participate in broadcasting. The Peiping, Tientsin, and Shanghai stations, in the course of half a year, have each used several thousand persons. Fourteen stations broadcast lectures or instruction in the Russian language. It is estimated that not less than 40,000 listeners take advantage of these opportunities.

- 3 -

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50X1-HUM

REPORTS PROGRESS OF RADIO LISTENING POSTS IN NORTHEAST -- Canton Nan-fang
Jih-pao, 22 Jul 50

Mukden, 19 July (Hsin-hua) -- Considerable progress has already been made in the establishment of radio listening posts under the eight people's radio broadcasting stations in the Northeast; the Tung-pei, Mukden, Ch'ang-ch'un, Harbin, Ch'i-ch'i-ha-erh, Kirin, An-tung, and Chin-chou stations. According to a preliminary survey of the progress of broadcasting service under the Harbin Radio Station, as of early July, there were 15 hsiens, two cities, and one mining village in Sung-chiang Province which already have listening posts, operated by 200 persons, and serving a total of 140 organizations. In Harbin alone, 11,000 listeners have already been organized; of this number, 3,000 listen to cadre training courses, 5,936 to children's programs, and others to workers' programs, Russian-language classes, etc.

The Ch'i-ch'i-ha-erh Radio Station reported that it now has 170 persons registered with the station to become operators for listening posts, while the Ch'ang-ch'un Radio Station reported that, under its network operated by 169 persons, there are 99 organizations listening to its programs.

RADIO SETS CONFISCATED IN TUNG CHIANG -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao,
16 Jul 50

Hui-chou, Kwangtung, 15 July -- It has been reported that since the outbreak of the Korean war, people of the Tung Chiang area have been deeply interested in the news. Local Communist authorities have ordered that all radio receiving sets be confiscated. Those who do not comply with the order face prison sentences of 5 to 15 years. Some who are unwilling to surrender their sets have thrown them into the river or hidden them in the ground. Recent arrivals from the Tung Chiang area report that people there are so hungry for news that they are willing to pay as much as 10 Hong Kong dollars, for a copy of a Hong Kong newspaper.

TO BROADCAST IN TIBETAN LANGUAGE -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 13 May 50

Peiping, 12 May (Hsin-hua) -- The Central People's Broadcasting Station at Peiping on 22 May 1950 will start broadcasting a program in the Tibetan language. For the present, this will be heard three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays). The wave length will be 428.57 meters at a frequency of 700 kilocycles; 29.34 meters at a frequency of 1026 kilocycles; and 19.92 meters at a frequency of 1506 kilocycles. Broadcasting time will be 2330 - 2400, Peiping time.

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- 4 -

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